

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE - 15 October 2001

REPORT ON: ABERLOUR OUTREACH DUNDEE

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

REPORT NO: 672 - 2001

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report informs the Committee of the development of the Aberlour Outreach Dundee project which will be managed by Aberlour Childcare Trust.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that The Social Work Committee:

Notes and approves the content of this report.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The cost of the project over the three years is as follows:

2000-2001	£67,000
2001-2002	£99,000
2002-2003	£100,000

In financial year 2000/2001, the Scottish Executive allocated resources directly to Aberlour Childcare Trust to fund the project.

The costs for 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 will be met from additional resources allocated to Dundee City Council by the Scottish Executive to expand drug rehabilitation services for which allowance has been made within the Social Work budget.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no specific rehabilitation services in Dundee. Subsequently women who require rehabilitation services have to go to residential centres throughout the country. This proves to be difficult particularly for women with children. In order to keep families together, this project will ensure that wherever possible the needs of women and children can be met locally.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Current drug services do not meet the needs of women and children whose lives are affected by drug use. The project will aim to improve the quality of life of women and families in Dundee affected by problem drug and alcohol misuse.

Where appropriate, work will be undertaken with fathers or male partners.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

6.1 Aberlour Childcare Trust is a well-respected Scottish children's charity and has well established pioneering projects for women experiencing problems in relation to drugs and alcohol and their children.

6.2 The Aberlour Outreach Dundee project is a collaborative venture between Dundee City Council Social Work Department and Aberlour Childcare Trust. Staff from the Tayside Drug Problems Service, the Tayside Drug and Alcohol Alliance and Dundee City Council Social Work Department were involved in the consultation process to develop this project.

6.3 The Aberlour Outreach Dundee project will employ a Project Manager, two Project Workers and a Children's Worker who will work with women and children, plus clerical support.

6.4 The Project will target mothers with problem substance use, children of people who abuse various substances and pregnant women involved in problem drug taking. There is an increasing awareness that where families have severe drug or alcohol problems, children are more vulnerable to risk of abuse and neglect. In particular they have an increased risk of going on to develop problems in relation to substance misuse themselves.

6.5 The main aims of the project are to:

- provide support to improve the life chances of women and children in families where substance misuse is an issue;
- provide clear assessments of families where substance misuse is an issue;
- reduce the vulnerability of children and improve their quality of care thus reducing the risk of them going on to develop problems with drugs and alcohol themselves.

6.6 The intended outcomes of the project include:

- decrease the number of children accommodated by the Local Authority;
- decrease the number of children on the Child Protection Register;
- increase the health and wellbeing of women.

Information will be gathered quantitatively through the number of referrals to the Project, the number of service users who become engaged with the Project, and qualitatively through service user surveys.

6.7 Aberlour Outreach Dundee project, in line with Dundee Council Corporate Plan, will aim to improve the quality of life for the children in Dundee. Project development is also in line with the Dundee Corporate Drug Action Plan and the Area Wide Review of Drug Services Tayside (1999) both of which highlight the lack of drug services to meet the needs of women and children. Children affected by parental substance misuse are also highlighted as a priority in Dundee Children's Services Plan.

6.8 Cognizance has been taken of the Scottish Executive's Consultation Paper, *"Getting our priorities right- policy and practice guidelines for working with children and families affected by problem drug use"*, in establishing the project.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 The following Officers and agencies have been consulted during the preparation of this report:

Director of Finance, Director of Personnel and Management Services, Aberlour Trust and The Tayside Alcohol and Drug Development Co-ordinator.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

9.0 SIGNATURE

Acting Director of Social Work

Date

3 October 2001